

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been gone over to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Rather than mark up the file copy of the claims, disassemble the file, copy the marked-up pages, reassemble the file, and attach the copies to the amendment, this amendment replaces the claims with a wholly new set. New claims 7 through 12 correspond to original claims 1 through 6 in scope, but their language has been corrected to comply with US antecedent basis and language requirements.

The instant invention relates to an improvement on a manually set box-folding machine. It is in fact principally related to a piece of equipment that is retrofitted to such a machine to facilitate setting it up when box format changes. Normally this operation is an onerous one, entailing the manipulation of various wheels and knobs with reference to a manual or printout of the settings required for each box format. Such manually set machines are very expensive and well known and the owners of them are not interested in replacing them, merely in improving the efficiency with which they are used.

Thus the present invention is a system whereby each manually positionable element is provided with two things: a display and a position detector. They are both connected to a computer which itself normally stores the desired positions or settings for all of the various formats the machine is to be used with. The user therefore need merely input, typically at a central location where the new computer is provided, the new format, and then go from one manually positionable element to the next, setting each of them to correspond to the position shown on its display, typically a small LCD unit. At each location where some manual positioning job is to be done, the respective display shows just what needs to be done and normally also in what direction. Thus for example a display indicates +6.5 at a crank positioner for an arm that is 6.5 millimeters too high, and the number will drop as the arm is cranked down until a 0 indicates the correct position is reached. There is no need to refer to a complex table for each setting, nor even to carry anything beyond simple tools from positionable element to positionable element.

In this manner it is possible to refit a big expensive folding machine with small position detector/display units at each manually positionable element and connect them all to a common computer of standard design. The basic machine can still be used, but the time spent resetting it on format change will be hugely reduced by the operator who must normally tend such a machine anyhow. The resetting is very, very easy, and there is no pos-

sibility of a setting being done wrong as a result of reading the wrong line in a manual or printout.

The sole reference applied against this case, *US patent 4,874,775 of Roch*, is a wholly automated device. It does not appear to have any manually positionable elements; instead all the elements are positioned by motors operated by a central controller. While it could be argued that this is in some ways a better system, it in no way meets the needs of the owner of a manually settable machine who does not want to replace a machine which, once set, works perfectly. With the Roch device the user (see column 3, lines 7-10) selects the desired format at a touch screen and the necessary changes in settings are made by computer-controlled actuators.

Not only does the Roch device constitute a wholly different approach, but at least one specifically claimed element of this invention is not seen in Roch. There are no displays at the positionable elements, and in fact there are no manually positionable elements. There would be no need for them, as the operator can reset the machine from a central location.

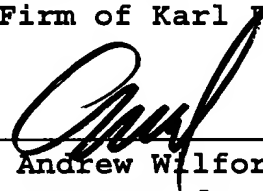
While the complexity of the Roch system is impressive, it does not satisfy the requirements of an owner of an existing manually resettable machine. No §102 or §103 rejection can be made on this reference.

The other references are even further afield and warrant no separate discussion here.

As all of the claims in the case are clearly allowable over the cited art, passage to Issue is therefore in order.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure:                      Copy of marked text  
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